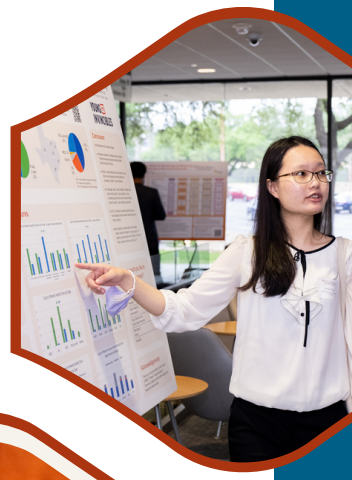




The University of Texas at Austin  
RGK Center for Philanthropy  
and Community Service  
*Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs*

# CONNECT PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT: 2021 - 2022



CONNECTING GRADUATE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE  
GLOBE TO INCREASE IMPACT THROUGH BETTER DATA PRACTICES

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS



*The RGK Center team hosted its inaugural CONNECT Community Showcase in April 2022.*



*CONNECT pilot programs were launched at two additional institutions - University of Houston & University of Texas at Dallas.*

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

**66**

PROJECT-STUDENT  
MATCHES

**241**

STUDENT  
APPLICATIONS

**44**

UNIQUE ORG  
PARTICIPANTS

**91%**

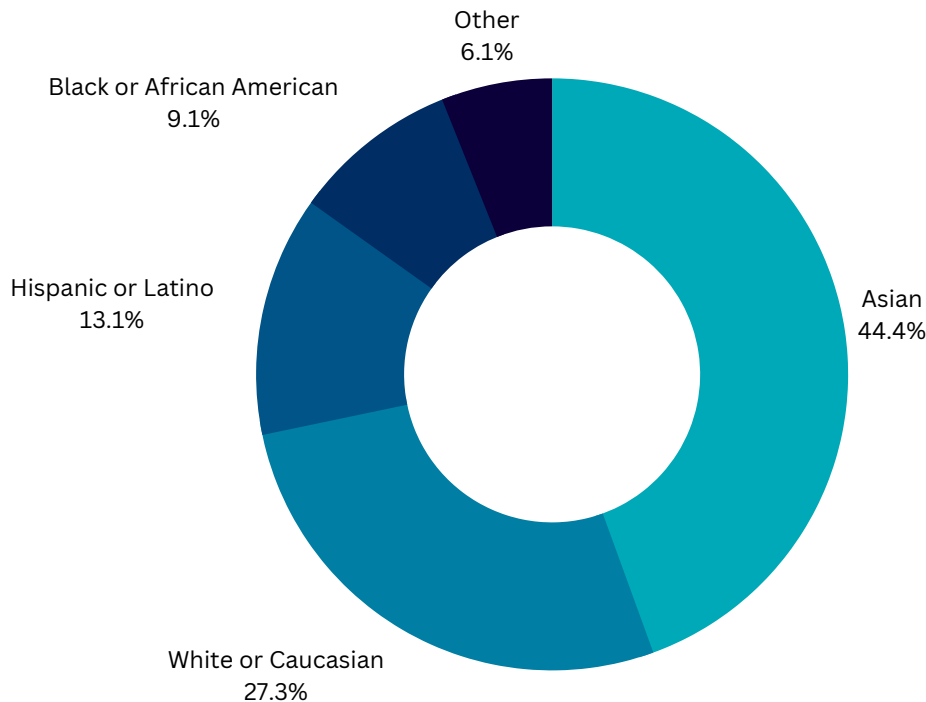
MATCH SUCCESS  
RATE

The RGK Center's CONNECT Program seeks to develop data, measurement, and program evaluation capacity within community organizations and introduce future leaders to data and evaluation career opportunities in the social sector.

# OUR FELLOWS



*Pursuing degrees from nine different UT colleges/schools*



**BITIA RAZAVI-MALEKI**

Doctoral Candidate, College of Education  
Summer 2022 Fellow

*"Expanding my network and meeting new people that helped me understand both my project and my career trajectory better was the highlight of the experience for me."*

**64%**

Master's Students

**36%**

Doctoral Students

**42%**

Repeat Fellows

**76%**

Identify as Women and/or Non-Binary

**42%**

International Students

**31%**

First Generation College Students

# OUR ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS

39

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

2

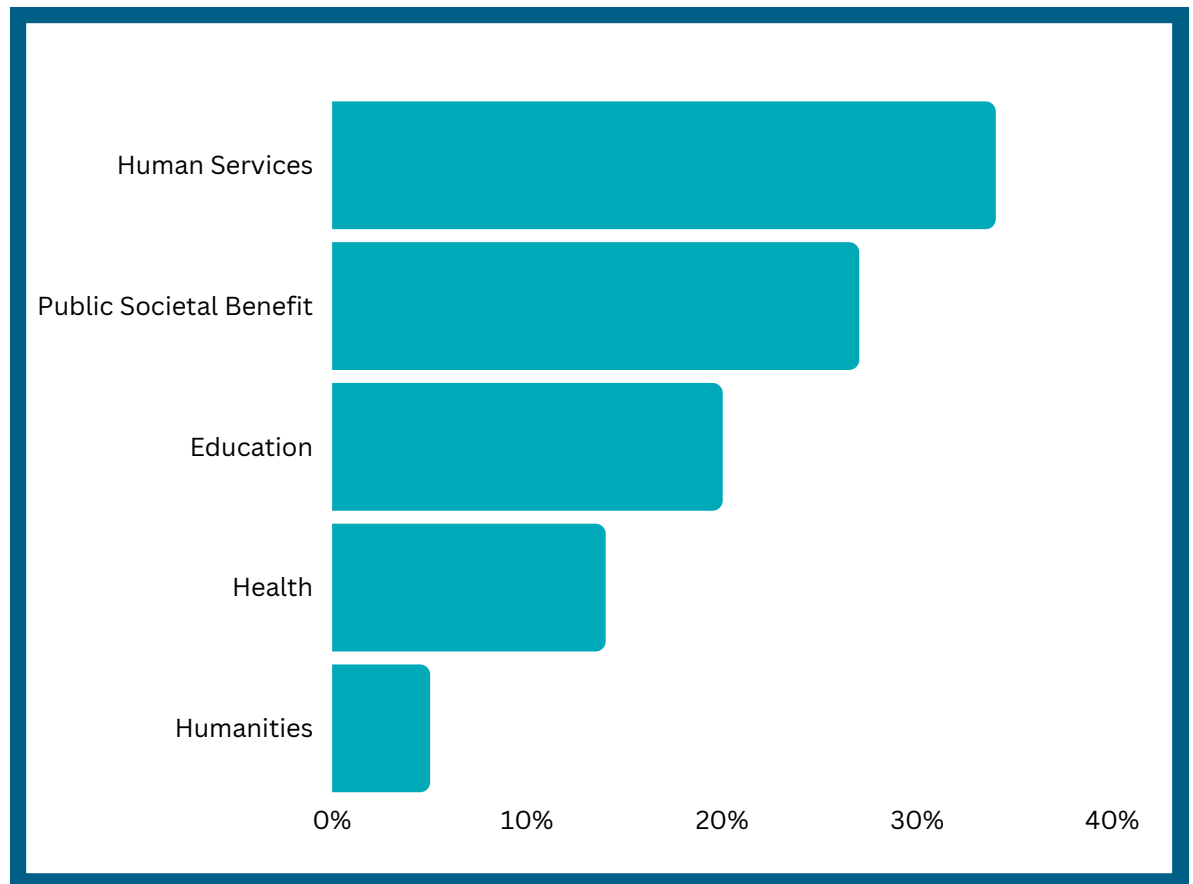
FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

2

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

1

UNIVERSITY PROGRAM



Breakdown of participating organization types and their activities  
(based on National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities [NTEE] classification system)

"The combination of CONNECT processes and [our Fellow], a highly skilled consultant, was very effective throughout the several month process - from problem definition through the final report and recommendations. Viewing this through the lens of similar experiences in corporate life, CONNECT is an extraordinary service for us as a non-profit and an outstanding educational experience for graduate consultants. "



-Women in Neuroscience Team

# OUR IMPACT

*"Working with Oakwood Chapel and Carver enhanced my relationship with East Austin overall. It also increased my social network. Participating in this project reinvigorated my interest to learn more about my family tree."*

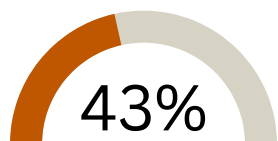


**CHRIS NDUBIZU**

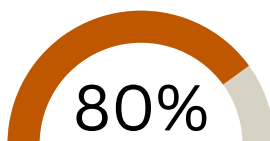
Doctoral Candidate, College of Liberal Arts  
Spring & Summer 2022 Fellow

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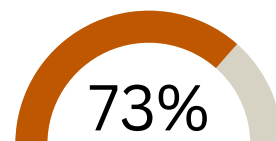
## AFTER ENGAGING IN THE CONNECT PROGRAM...



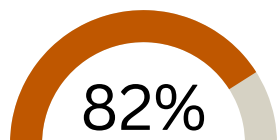
of students felt their experience impacted their career trajectory



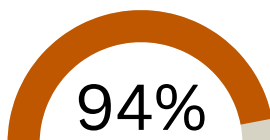
of orgs reported an increased confidence handling data



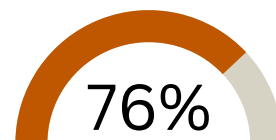
of orgs reported their project contributed to their ability to use data for analysis, visualization, or reporting



of orgs reported an increased confidence using data to communicate impact



of orgs reported their project contributed to their ability to improve skills, knowledge, resources, and/or processes



of orgs reported an increased confidence implementing M&E efforts



*"This project has been a worthwhile investment for ABC. We are excited about the new survey tools and also the idea that those will be a new starting place from which we can continue tweaking to accurately measure our program outcomes as they grow and change."*

**-Austin Bat Cave Team**

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

**ORGANIZATION:** Community Advancement Network is a partnership of government, non-profit, private and faith-based organizations who work together to enhance the social, health, educational and economic well-being of Central Texas. CAN provides a unique, collaborative forum to enhance awareness of issues, strengthen partnerships, connect efforts across issue areas, and facilitate development of collaborative strategies.



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**CHALLENGE:** To automate CAN's ability to extract, clean, and analyze indicator data from the American Community Survey.

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## **DELIVERABLES & KEY ACTIVITIES:**

- Developed scripts for extracting US Census Bureau American Community Survey data used in CAN Community Dashboard indicators, drilldowns, and website
- Developed scripts for cleaning and facilitating visualization of indicator data
- Implemented functionality to streamline annual indicator review and update processes



*AGNES ELIMBI was the CONNECT Fellow for this project during Fall 2021. She recently graduated from the Cockrell School of Engineering with a Master's degree in operations research and industrial engineering.*